The One Hundred and Third Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1955

REYNOLDS - DE WALT
New Bedford, Mass.

Officers and Staff of the Free Public Library

Trustees

HON. ARTHUR N. HARRIMAN	Mayor of the City

Elected by the City Council

ROBERTA S. BARNET	Term expires April 1956
CHARLES S. KELLEY, JR.	Term expires April 1956
CAROLYN B. MANNING	Term expires April 1957
RT. REV. MSGR. JOHN F. McKEON	Term expires April 1957
H. ERNEST DIONNE	Term expires April 1958
RICHARD G. HAWES	Term expires April 1958

STAFF

Librarian

LAURENCE G. HILL

Assistant Librarian

CLAIRE N. RILEY

Heads of Departments

MARION H. BONNER	Reference Librarian
STELLA FERGUSON*	Art Librarian
YVETTE BOISCLAIR	Art Librarian
CHARLOTTE S. NYE	Supervisor of Children, Schools and Young People
CELESTINE M. POWERS	Supervisor of Technical Processes
JEANIE D. SHIELDS	Bookmobile Librarian

Assistants

IRENE BANCROFT
CATHERINE BELL
MARIAN CALLANAN
SHIRLEY COHEN
EVALINA CONSTANTINE
MARGUERITE DALEY
RACHEL DEMERS
EVA DONNELLY**
MARGARET FANNING
GERTRUDE GOLDSTEIN
NATALIE GOODWIN
REGINALD HEGARTY
ALICE MAHONEY
THELMA PAINE
LORETTA PHANEUF
FRANCES SANDERSON
DEOLINDA TAVARES
JOHANNA WALSH
SARAH WALTER
CECELIA WEAVER

Branches

North Branch — SALLY VICTORIA, ALICE NOEL

South Branch — CEZALTINA MENDOZA, MARY PHANEUF

West Branch — LUCY ANN SHERMAN, **ELIZABETH SWIFT, KATHERINE WHITEHEAD

Building Maintenance Staff

ROSE ALVES
INEZ CAMPOS
ADRIEN LANDRY
ALICE MARSH
WILLIAM MARSH
HILDA MONIZ
GARRISON OLIVER
LEONARD ROSE
GABRIEL SOUZA

---

* Retired

** Resigned

Trustees' Report

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.

The Trustees present their One Hundred and Third Annual Report to the City Council in the report of the Librarian.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

LAURENCE G. HILL,

Clerk of the Board

Annual Report of the Librarian 1955

The American public library is taken pretty much for granted by users and non-users. The users come with the expectation of finding what they need, the non-users only vaguely realize the vast resources at their disposal. For the Library is the repository of knowledge in depth, it houses and has available for ready use as much or as little as the user needs or can understand. Last night's television show no matter how artistically satisfying or intellectually stimulating is gone and will not return. The book, magazine or newspaper whether on paper or microfilm is waiting at the Library for the time when someone will want it for the pleasure of reading stimulating ideas skillfully presented or for the practical information contained in its pages. In no other place can be found so cheap and satisfactory a means of adding to the knowledge and education needed by everyone in daily life.

SERVICES AND USE

The use of the New Bedford Free Public Library has increased greatly in the past five years. In the home use of books alone the number of books circulated has increased twenty-seven percent since 1951. The present year's figure for books loaned is 483,519 a figure which approaches the half million mark.

The Bookmobile, newest of the Library's services, circulated 57,129 books during 1955 while the North, South and West branches show a combined total of 145,927. This is a good showing which points to the possibility of increased use if new branches are built in the North and West areas of the city.

The other gauge to a library's usefulness lies in its reference and information services. Our statistics show an average of one hundred reference questions a day asked at

the Main Library alone. Add to this the reference work done at the branches together with the limited reference facilities on the Bookmobile and it can be seen that the resources of the Library are not dead storage in any sense of the word. The questions asked at the Library have a fantastic variety, varying from mundane queries on population and weather to such esoteric matters as radio-carbon age determination of archeological specimens and back to such practical considerations as the best waterproofing material for a damp cellar. The Reference Room together with the specialized Art, Business and Technical, and Genealogy departments experienced a busy and satisfactory year.

The Children's Department carried on its varied activities during the year which included visits by the Supervisor to the schools and many visits by fourth and sixth grade classes to the Library. Merit badge classes for Girl Scouts and story hours at the City Mission were a part of the day to day work of the Children's Room personnel.

A little noted but valuable service the Library renders is making available the Library Lecture Hall and small meeting rooms to groups and organizations for special meetings. A total of 292 meetings were held at the Library. In fact, hardly a day went by but what some organization was not using one or more of the available rooms.

COMIC SWAP

On Saturday morning April 2, 1955 some three or four thousand New Bedford children, laden with literally tons of comic books, began arriving outside the Main Library building to swap ten comics for one good children's book. This was the result of a great deal of cooperative planning done by the Trustees, the Library Staff, other city departments and interested local organizations. The principal idea behind the swap was not so much to get comic books out of circulation as to introduce the children to good books and to publicize the Library as a continuing source of good and interesting reading material. Active participation in handling the distribution of books was

shared by the Library Staff and members of the Rotary and Lions Clubs. The Auxiliary Police did a superb job of keeping the lines of children moving in an orderly manner. The Kiwanis Club and the Interchurch Council and the Council of Jewish Women contributed toward the purchase of books and one individual who wished to remain anonymous gave the Librarian a check for $100.00 toward buying more books.

Ship #13 New Bedford Sea Scouts handled the disposition of the comic books collected as fast as they were counted and turned in. Profits from the sale of the comics as waste paper were donated to the Sea Scouts for their troop fund.

Mayor Harriman officially opened the comic swap with a blast on the siren of the fire engine provided for the occasion by the Fire Department. In spite of the fact that a large crowd was expected we ran out of books within a half an hour after we started. Thereafter the names and addresses of the children were taken together with the number of books they were entitled to. I am glad to say that all promises have been fulfilled. Over five thousand books were given out all told. It was an expensive project which could only have been carried through by use of the Wilks Fund income. An excellent photograph of the Comic Swap at its height, taken by the Standard-Times, appeared in the Library Journal, a library magazine with national circulation, in October. The Librarian was awarded a certificate of civic achievement by the New Bedford Chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at its annual award dinner on April 27.

I would again like to thank the Library employees, their friends and relatives, the Junior Daughters of Isabella who helped prepare the books, Mr. Hiram H. Haggett who designed the book plate, and all of the other organizations who contributed to making the Comic Swap an outstanding success.

COST OF LIBRARY SERVICE

The cost of operating the New Bedford Free Public Library is borne jointly by appropriation from taxes and income from endowment funds. The per capita cost to the

taxpayer was $1.15 in 1955. To this is added $.51 per capita from endowment fund income at no cost to the taxpayer. In actual money spent, the city appropriation was $125,702.58 and money spent from endowment income was $56,030.54.

Of this cost salaries and wages paid amounted to $115,-373.07. It should be noted that the Library was open 72 hours a week and most Sundays and holidays. I do not believe that any other city department except the Fire and Police Departments are open for business as many hours as the Library.

In addition to serving the public at the loan and reference desks, several full time employees are needed to order, receive, check and catalog the new books and magazines. The integration of the new acquisitions into the existing book collection is a highly skilled job requiring specialized knowledge and background. The usefulness of a library depends a great deal on the ease with which the full extent of its resources can be exploited.

Over twenty thousand dollars from trust fund income was spent for books, magazines, business services and phonograph records. The Library is fortunate in being able to supply adequately the needs of the city in this respect.

Expenditures from Wilks Fund income permitted the building of a suitable driveway for the Bookmobile and paying for a third of the cost of the electrical renovation out of 1955 income. The remaining two thirds of the cost of electrical renovation will be taken from Wilks Fund income earned in 1956.

FUTURE PLANS

Future plans for the Library depend on the amount of financial support the Library receives. With the aid of the Wilks Fund many material advances can be made. These advances must be correlated with the ability of the city to pay for the additional maintenance and personnel costs entailed by the expansion of library service. Below I have listed some of

the projects that need attention immediately and in the near future.

1956
1. Repair of roof of Main Library.
2. Repainting and repair of interior walls of the Main Library.
3. Rearrangement of shelving and seating in Ingraham Hall and the public rooms of the Main Library. Plans call for additional shelving and furniture to insure better facilities for comfortable, pleasant reading and study.
4. Appointment of an architect and preparation for construction of a new North Branch Library.
5. Replacement of the present elevator in the Main Library with an automatic elevator.

1957-60
1. Rewire and relight book stack area in Main Library.
2. Redecorate South Branch and buy new furniture.
3. Extension of running water to third floor of Main Library and repair and renovation of present plumbing throughout the building.
4. Planning of new West Branch Library.
5. Heating system of the Main Library overhauled and redesigned to eliminate the dirt problem presently encountered.

In addition to these material advances the Library should try to promote the resources of the Library to adult citizens and inculcate in children an interest in the books they need for education and pleasure.

Miss Nye and Miss Riley have done yeoman service in speaking to many local groups on books and libraries. The Librarian has continued his weekly radio program with Harriet Hall on WNBH. I greatly appreciate the cooperation extended to the Library by both radio stations and the Standard-Times.

My sincere thanks to all the Library employees for their cooperation during the year. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Trustees for the generous giving of their time and advice on the many problems which have arisen this year.

LAURENCE G. HILL,

Librarian

STATISTICS IN FORM RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1955

Name of Library—New Bedford Free Public Library.
City—New Bedford. State—Massachusetts.
Name of Librarian—Laurence G. Hill.
Date of Founding—1852.
Population served—109,189 (U. S. Census 1950)
What government unit served—City.
Terms of use—Free lending. Free for reference.
Total number of agencies—252
Central Library, 3 Branches, 247 school deposits and classroom libraries, bookmobile.

Number of days open during the year	341
Hours open each week for lending	72
Hours open each week for reading	76
Hours of service per week required of staff	35
Number of Sundays and holidays open during the year	36
Hours open each Sunday and holiday for reading and reference	4

BOOK STOCK

Number of volumes at beginning of year	261,538
Number of volumes added during year	9,003
Number of volumes withdrawn during year	6,563
Total number of volumes at end of year	263,978
Number of newspapers currently received	32
Number of periodicals currently received	296
Number of music records added	60
Total number of music records	651

CIRCULATION AND USE

Number of volumes of adult non-fiction lent for home use	83,955
Number of volumes of adult fiction lent for home use	134,647
Number of books for children lent for home use	264,917
Total number of volumes lent for home use	483,519
Total number of music records lent for home use	3,133

REGISTRATION

Total number of registered card-holders 22,097

Length of registration period is 3 years.

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

	Balance 1954	Income 1955	Expenditures 1955	Balance 1955
J. B. Congdon	$59.49	$13.76	00.00	$73.25
G. O. Crocker	605.02	291.69	498.38	398.33
Oliver Crocker	93.66	27.50	00.00	121.16
George Howland, Jr.	99.13	44.00	10.78	132.35
Charles W. Morgan	80.35	27.50	00.00	107.85
Charles L. Wood	183.78	55.00	00.00	238.78
S. A. Howland	408.48	1,234.28	986.67	656.09
Kempton	3,174.10	11,946.36	11,951.80	3,168.66
F. S. Allen	76.46	30.00	00.00	106.46
E. B. Mackie	90.27	27.50	00.00	117.77
Patty Wilcox	528.96	150.00	25.35	653.61
F. L. Waite	4,500.00	996.36	730.03	4,766.33
C. L. Tripp	507.10	574.67	791.45	290.32
S. A. H. G. Wilks	14,320.87	32,975.44	40,512.18	6,784.13
	$24,727.67	$48,394.06	$55,506.64	$17,615.09
Duplicate Pay	444.47	00.00	444.47	00.00
H. H. Crapo	34.95	00.00	12.95	22.00
W. L. R. Gifford	170.14	00.00	66.48	103.66
	$25,377.23	$48,394.06	$56,030.54	$17,740.75

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Books and Periodicals	$24,848.96
Comic Swap	5,906.33
Recordings	244.86
Microfilm	730.03
Binding	547.68

Bookmobile Maintenance	1,063.21
Treasurer's Salary (Wilks Fund)	1,000.00
Treasurer's Bond (Wilks Fund)	338.09
Commissions (Tripp Fund)	27.89
Safe Deposit Box (Tripp Fund)	5.50
Safe Deposit Box (Wilks Fund)	45.00
Driveway	1,565.00
Electrical Renovation	13,046.55
New Equipment	278.95
Stationery and Supplies	199.54
Refunds	5.75
All Other	87.74
Bond Interest Prepaid (Wilks Fund)	3,973.36
Transferred to Principal (Kempton)	2,050.37
Transferred to Principal (Howland)	65.73
	$56,030.54

CITY APPROPRIATION

Salaries and Wages — Appropriated		$116,561.27
General Expenses		10,330.00
		$126,891.27
Expended		
Salaries	$80,398.77	
Wages	34,974.30	
	115,373.07	
General Expenses		
Building Maintenance	293.19	
Insurance	290.60	
Janitors Supplies	1,011.56	
Binding	2,517.06	
Printing	247.45	
Express	435.80	
Postage	420.78	
Telephone	1,053.64	
Light	494.83	
Heat	586.56	
Water	85.60	
Stationery and Supplies	1,740.27	
Travel and Transportation	172.92	
All Other	161.40	
Rent	780.00	
New Equipment	12.95	
Imprest Cash	24.90	
	$10,329.51	

Total Expended: $125,702.58

Returned to City Treasurer: $1,188.79

Sal. and Wages $1,188.20 General Expenses .49 Imprest Cash .10

TREASURER'S REPORT — WILKS FUND 1955
INCOME ACCOUNT

Balance December 31, 1954		$14,320.87
RECEIVED		
Savings Bank Dividends	$11,820.70	
Co-operative Bank Dividends	800.00	
Bond Interest	11,412.88	
Bank and Insurance Stock Dividends	6,562.50	
U. S. Treasury Bills	2,133.91	
All Other	245.45	
	$32,975.44	
EXPENDED		
Books and Periodicals	$19,097.24	
Bookmobile Maintenance	1,063.21	
Treasurer's Salary	1,000.00	
Insurance	338.09	
Electrical Renovation	13,046.55	
Driveway	1,565.00	
Binding	44.99	
New Equipment	266.00	
Bond Interest Prepaid	3,973.36	
All Other	117.74	
	$40,512.18	
BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1955		$6,784.13

TREASURER'S REPORT — WILKS FUND 1955
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT — SECURITIES HELD

MASSACHUSETTS SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT
Arlington Five Cents Savings	$7,500.00
Berkshire County Savings (Pittsfield)	7,500.00
Beverly Savings	7,500.00
Boston Five Cents Savings	20,000.00
Brookline Savings	15,000.00
Cambridge Savings	7,500.00
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings (Harwichport)	25,000.00
Charlestown Savings	7,500.00
City Savings (Pittsfield)	7,500.00
Essex Savings (Lawrence)	7,500.00
Fall River Five Cents Savings	7,500.00
Fall River Savings	20,000.00
Franklin Savings (Boston)	7,500.00
Greenfield Savings	10,000.00
Home Savings (Boston)	50,000.00
Lynn Institution for Savings	15,000.00
Medford Savings	7,500.00
New Bedford Five Cents Savings	50,343.77
New Bedford Institution for Savings	50,000.00
Newton Savings	7,500.00
Springfield Five Cents Savings	7,500.00
Suffolk Savings (Boston)	7,500.00

Ware Savings	10,000.00
Wareham Savings	25,000.00
Warren Five Cents Savings (Peabody)	7,500.00
Warren Institution for Savings (Boston)	7,500.00
Westfield Savings	7,500.00
	$410,343.77

CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

Acushnet Co-operative	$8,000.00
New Bedford Co-operative	8,000.00
Quincy Co-operative	8,000.00
	$24,000.00

BONDS

	AMOUNT	BOOK VALUE	DEC. 30, 1955 MARKET VALUE
Alabama Power Co. 3⅛ 1972	25M	$26,068.75	$25,687.50
Allied Chemical & Dye 3½ 1978	25M	26,406.25	25,843.75
Aluminum Co. of America 3⅛ 1964	20M	20,625.00	20,050.00
American Tel. & Tel. Co. 2¾ 1971	50M	49,125.00	47,250.00
American Tobacco Co. 3's 1962	50M	50,875.00	49,625.00
Bell Tel. Co. of Penn. 5's 1960	50M	52,875.00	52,437.50
Delaware & Hudson Co. 4's 1963	25M	25,687.50	25,337.50
General Motors Corp. 3¼ 1979	50M	51,837.50	50,750.00
Lake Superior District 2¾ 1980	10M	9,300.00	9,000.00
N. E. Tel. & Tel. Co. 4½ 1961	50M	52,950.00	51,750.00
New Orleans Pub. Ser. 3⅛ 1974	25M	24,747.50	24,250.00
Northern Pacific Ry. 4's 1997	25M	27,687.50	27,031.25
Public Service of Indiana 3⅛ 1975	25M	25,312.50	24,562.50
So. Cal. Edison Co. 3⅝ 1978	19M	19,751.25	19,475.00
Texas Corp. 3's 1965	20M	20,575.00	20,250.00
		$483,823.75	$473,300.00

BANK AND INSURANCE STOCKS

	No. Shares	Book Value	Dec. 30, 1955 Market Value
Chase Manhattan Bank, N. Y.	500	$23,950.00	$25,625.00
First National Bank, Boston	400	24,287.50	25,000.00
Girard Trust Corn Exchange, Phila.	400	28,237.50	28,200.00
Guaranty Trust Co., New York	400	32,025.00	31,800.00
Irving Trust Co., New York	800	23,800.00	25,000.00
Manufacturers Trust Co., New York	400	31,400.00	33,900.00
First National City Bank, New York	400	23,400.00	25,500.00
National Shawmut Bank, Boston	1,000	46,375.00	42,225.00
First Penn. Banking & Trust Co., Phila.	400	20,050.00	19,700.00
Phoenix Insurance Co.	200	18,562.50	18,400.00
Springfield Fire & Marine Ins. Co.	400	23,075.00	25,400.00
		$295,162.50	$300,750.00
TOTAL		$1,213,330.02	$1,208,393.77
UNINVESTED CASH		12,150.15	12,150.15
TOTAL		$1,225,480.17	$1,220,543.92
DEPRECIATION			$4,936.25

PAID OUT FOR COMMISSIONS AND FEES $3,113.28